

not contradict the record being withheld.

**§ 2004.5 Classified records and information from other agencies.**

(a) A Classification Review Committee is hereby established within STR to make determinations on the applicability of the exemption for classified documents. The Committee will be chaired by a staff official designated by the Special Representative and will consist of the Chairman and 2 STR Officials designated by him who have authority to classify and declassify documents.

(b) The applicability of the exemption for classified information requires a determination that the record in question is specifically authorized under the criteria established by Executive Order 11652 to be kept classified and is in fact properly classified pursuant to that order. This determination shall be made whenever possible before the initial denial under § 204.4(a)(1). It must in any case be made prior to the decision of an appeal under § 2004.7. No denial should be based solely on the existence of a classification marking on the record, and there shall be a substantive review of the validity of the classification to the maximum extent feasible within the time limits for a denial under § 2004.4.

(c) When a request for a STR record encompasses classified information originated or received from another department or agency, the request for that information shall be referred to the originator or other source. The person requesting the record will be advised of the date and the addressee of the referral.

(d) The Classification Review Committee will, at the request of another agency, make recommendations on the release of material concerning "national defense or foreign policy" originally classified by another agency but which is of significant subject-matter interest to STR.

**§ 2004.6 Release or denial of request for records.**

Written requests for inspection or copying of records shall be granted or denied only by the Freedom of Information Officer or his designee. Responses to written requests shall be in

writing, shall specify the reasons for any denial therefore, and shall advise the person requesting of the right to appeal any denial to the Freedom of Information Appeals Committee.

**§ 2004.7 Appeals.**

(a) A Freedom of Information Appeals Committee is hereby established, consisting of the Special Representative or his designee as chairman, and 3 STR staff officials designated by the Special Representative, none of whom were members of the Classification Committee which originally made the determination on the requested information.

(b) Review of an initial denial under § 2004.6 may be requested by the person who submitted the original request for a record. The review (hereinafter the appeal) must be requested in writing within 30 days of the date that the person requesting the record is informed either:

(1) That the request is denied completely, or

(2) That all records which are being furnished in response to his request have been released and he has been so informed.

(c) If the appeal is granted, the person making the appeal shall be immediately notified and copies of the releaseable documents shall be made available promptly thereafter upon receipt of appropriate fees as set forth in § 2004.9. If the appeal is denied in whole or part, the person making the request shall be immediately notified of the decision and of the provisions of judicial review of STR's denial of the request.

(d) In the event a determination is not issued within the appropriate time limit and the person making the request chooses to initiate a court action against STR, the determination process shall continue and the Freedom of Information Appeals Committee may review any initial denial of the requested record.

**§ 2004.8 Time limits.**

(a) An initial response under § 2004.6 shall be made within 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) after the receipt of a request for a record under this part by the Freedom of Information Officer or

his designee. An appeal under § 2004.7 shall be decided within 20 days (excepting Saturdays, Sundays and legal public holidays) after the receipt of such an appeal by the Appeals Committee.

(b) The time limits for initial decision and for an appeal decision begins on the date the request or appeal is actually received by STR. If requests or appeals not properly marked “Freedom of Information Request” or “Freedom of Information Act Appeal” on the request or appeal are inadvertently delayed in reaching the Freedom of Information Officer or the Appeals Committee they will not be deemed received by STR until actually received by the Freedom of Information Officer or Appeals Committee. In such event, the person making the request or appeal will be furnished a notice of the effective date of receipt.

(c) In unusual circumstances as specified in this paragraph, the Freedom of Information Officer or his designee may extend the time limits in paragraph (a) of this section by written notice to the person requesting a record under this part, which notice shall set forth the reasons for such extension and the date on which a determination or appeal decision is expected to be dispatched. No such notice shall specify a date which would result in an extension of either the initial determination period, or the appeal period, or both, for more than 10 working days. As used in this paragraph “unusual circumstances” means, but only to the extent reasonably necessary to the proper processing of the particular request:

(1) The need to search for and collect the requested records from overseas posts or other establishments that are separate from the office processing the request;

(2) The need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records which are demanded in a single request; or

(3) The need for consultations, which shall be conducted with all practicable speed, with another agency having a substantial interest in the determination of the request, or among two or more components of the agency having

substantial subject matter interest therein.

(d) Where the responsible official believes that further consideration of a request may result in the release of additional records or portions thereof, the expiration of the time period allocated by the Freedom of Information Officer or his designee does not require the termination of that consideration, and it should be continued with a view to maximum disclosure of requested records within a reasonable period of time.

**§ 2004.9 Fees schedule.**

(a) Fees schedule for the search and reproduction of information available under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), as amended:

(1) *Search for records.* Five dollars per hour when the search is conducted by a clerical employee. Eight dollars per hour when the search is conducted by a professional employee. No charge for searches of less than one hour.

(2) *Duplication of records.* Records will be duplicated at a rate of \$.15 per page for all copying of 4 pages or more.

(3) *Other.* When no specific fee has been established for a service, or the request for a service does not fall under one of the above categories due to the amount or type thereof, the Freedom of Information Act Officer is authorized to establish an appropriate fee based on “direct costs” as provided in the Freedom of Information Act. Examples of services covered by this provision include searches involving computer time or special travel, transportation, or communications costs.

(b) Search costs are due and payable even if the record which was requested cannot be located after all reasonable efforts have been made, or if the Freedom of Information Officer or his designee or the Freedom of Information Appeals Committee determines that a record which has been requested, but which is exempt from disclosure under the Act, is to be withheld. Processing of a request for records will not be undertaken until the person requesting a record has paid in full for search and duplication charges for any previous document request under the Act.

(c) Where it is anticipated that the fees chargeable under this section will